

SECRET

War Diary of the Ruestungskommando Paris East
of the Reich Minister for Armament and War Production
Period Jan-Mar 1944

Area of jurisdiction: Center of Paris (city proper without suburbs),
eastern part of Greater Paris, and Departement Seine et Marne.

Quarterly review:

Despite difficulties in the supply of electricity, gas, and coal,
and despite transportation difficulties, the value of deliveries was at
65.8 million RM for the first quarter of 1944 only slightly lower than
for the 4th quarter of 1943 at 69 million RM.

Production:

Production was hampered by a lag in deliveries of semi-manufactured
materials from Germany.

Labor:

81,897 persons were employed by the end of March 1944 (end of Dec 1943,
78,341). Working hours:

up to 48 hours	43 plants with	4,750 workers	6%
up to 54 hours	182 plants with	49,995 workers	61%
up to 60 hours	99 plants with	27,152 workers	33%

The necessary additional increase of working hours met with considerable
difficulty because of the food situation as well as interruptions in the
supply of electric current, coal, etc. Despite all attempts, it proved
impossible to increase the percentage of women, which reach about 35%.

Plant Protection:

Increase in sabotage led to permanent military guards in a few
especially important plants, increase in guard patrols, etc.

Coal, Electricity, and Gas:

Deliveries of coal were determined by the changes in the transportation
situation. During January the failure of coal deliveries from the Northern
mines led to import of German coal. In March, a lack of transportation

SECRET

resulted from the destruction of distributor railroad stations, partial paralysis of water transportation by destruction of locks, and an increased need for transportation by the Armed Forces. The gas and electricity supply was not only subject to transportation difficulties, but also to sabotage on long distance lines.

In order to guarantee power delivery to armament plants with priority programs, other plants were subjected to power shutoffs ranging from 2 to 4 days.

From Situation Reports of Group IIA Jan-Mar 1944.

Status of Production in Armament- and Sub-contractor Plants
as of March 1944 (in RM)

	<u>Procurement</u>	<u>Clothing & Equipment</u>	<u>Sub-contractor Plants</u>	<u>Total</u>
Orders as of 1 Mar 1944	349,204,337	18,587,041	19,606,317	387,397,695
Deliveries during Mar for German customers	17,443,678	2,666,237	1,599,276	21,709,191
New orders during Mar	54,809,946	3,789,613	2,387,344	60,986,903
Orders on hand end of March 1944	386,570,605	19,710,417	20,394,385	426,675,407

Production of 7.5 cm HE-shells was started. In March 35,000 shells were produced at "Le Materiel Electrique S.W.", Champagne-sur-Seine. Production of army equipment hampered by lack of accessories. The main difficulties of the armament industry resulted from transportation bottlenecks. Coal trains left the mines as planned, but were detained on the way because of damage to rail lines and switching stations. Lack of skilled labor continued. In some firms, dismissals took place because of bomb damage and irregular work habits. Procurement of chemicals was difficult because of a lack of coal and curtailed allotments of electricity and gas, Especially ethylene trichloride, sulphuric acid, hardening salts, and carbide.

On hand were orders for 3,215 3.5-ton trucks valued at RM 23,000,000 and RM 4,000,000 worth of stereotelescopes and telescopes. A considerable shortage of oxygen and carbon dioxide was caused by the shutting down of the plant "Air Liquide" due to sabotage acts. An "emergency commissar" was appointed to cope with the most urgent needs.

SECRET

On 13 March 1944, the industries of France were subdivided into 3 classes for the purpose of electricity allotment:

- a) all armament plans and sub-contractor plants which are under the supervision of Armament Command (Rue Kdo)
- b) all other special-product and sub-contractor plants
- c) all other plants

Electricity shut-off for class:

- a) Saturday and Sunday
- b) on 3 consecutive days incl. Sunday
- c) on 4 consecutive days incl. Sunday

Uniform shut-off hours were established for the entire department Seine: 1400 - 1800 hours.

During March, the supply of coal deteriorated especially because of the destruction of several shunting stations in the environs of Paris. Emergency shipments of coal from the northern mines were made by truck and were scheduled to continue on a weekly basis. Coal stocks on hand decreased considerably. The mechanical industries had supplies for 6 days, the textile- and leather industries, supplies for about 10 days, and the chemical industries, supplies for about 2 weeks. Transportation conditions grew so serious in March that only Armed forces materiel and the most important products were transported.

From Weekly Reports - Jan-Mar

The possibility of farming out production to the penitentiary of Melun has been brought under consideration. Relocation of production into caves (Romainville, etc.) was considered. Special allocation of 1,800 tons of German coal was made available, especially to the large firms like Citroen, Pidault, Elion ^{et} Cie. The coal shortage made production difficult for the whole area, but curtailed especially the output of the following units: Als-Thom, Fonderies et Acieries de Paris-Seine (FAPS) and the German Reich Railroad GK-Mot. To make things worse, the right kinds of coal were not available, for example the German Reich railroads had to substitute mining coke for gas coke, which caused difficulties at the generator-gas installation.

- 3 -

SECRET

SECRET

The action of the French official in charge of electricity allocation, who established the February allotments to plants without considering their different importance to German armament needs, was considered sabotage. Sabotage acts increased and made the issuance of weapons to several plants necessary. Workers of the firm "L'Outillage R.B.B." went on strike and the SD (security service) went into action.

By the bombardment of the railroad station Creil, the coal transport into Paris came to a complete stop. The supply by waterways was hampered considerably by the fact that a canal drained empty and the locks were damaged. The firms Schmitter, Montreuil, and Soc. Chimique de la Grande Paroisse continued to be shut down.

A commission including directors and engineers of the German Volkswagen Plant visited the automobile plant Citroen and especially its machine depots (presses). The aim of the inspection is to decide whether the presses should be located or whether orders should be placed with Citroen.

- 4 -

SECRET